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Issued February 27, 1918.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—CIRCULAR NO. 105.

METHOD OF SALE OF WAR EMERGENCY SEED CORN TO FARMERS IN CERTAIN STATES BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

AUTHORITY FOR ACTION.

In an act approved August 10, 1917 (Public No. 40, 65th Congress), the following authority is given:

Section 3.—That whenever the Secretary of Agriculture shall find that there is or may be a special need in any restricted area for seeds suitable for the production of food or feed crops, he is authorized to purchase or contract with persons to grow such seeds, to store them, and to furnish them to farmers for cash, at cost, including the expense of packing and transportation.

Also, a part of Section 8 of the same act reads as follows:

For procuring, storing, and furnishing seeds, as authorized by section three of this act, $2,500,000, and this fund may be used as a revolving fund until June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and eighteen.

It has been reported that there is or may be a shortage of seed corn suitable for planting in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Missouri. Under the authority quoted above, the Secretary of Agriculture announces the following plan for determining whether a special need for seed corn exists in any restricted area, and, if such need be found, for furnishing such seed to farmers for cash, at cost, including the expense of packing and transportation.

PLAN OF PROCEDURE.

Section 1.—Ascertaining the Need.

In view of the short time remaining before the corn-planting season, prompt action is necessary. For this reason the organization of the Agricultural Extension Service in these States is being utilized, through the County Agents and State Directors of Extension, for assembling the information as to seed requirements and, so far as possible, for the sale of the seed ordered. It should be clearly understood by all concerned that the Department of Agriculture does not contemplate the sale of seed corn in any district unless there is special need for such action. The desirability of securing seed corn of known adaptability and of known vitality is so great that no effort should be spared to use all available local supplies before resorting to other sources.

Section 2.—Available Supplies of Seed.

It is a general custom among farmers to save their own seed for planting or to depend upon neighbors who save seed, so that ordinarily only a small part of the seed required for planting is handled commercially. In the present season it is likely that more than the usual proportion of the seed corn required must be commercially handled. In case it is found necessary for the Department of Agriculture to aid

in providing seed for planting, it will be necessary to do this both by locating and purchasing stocks on farms and by intercepting and diverting commercial corn of known origin and fair germination that would otherwise pass into consumption. It is not to be expected that such corn will be as desirable for planting as corn of thoroughly established adaptability, specially selected and preserved for seed, even though it may be purchased at a considerably lower price. It is not the intention of this Department to restrict or hamper the work of the customary agencies which handle seed corn, but rather to encourage them to do their utmost to meet the present emergency. It probably will be necessary for them to assemble and distribute larger quantities than usual. However, it seems proper to urge upon all such agencies, and particularly upon wholesale seed dealers, the importance of offering for sale in any district only such corn as is believed to be adapted to that district and known to have good germination. It is therefore requested that dealers engaging in the seed-corn trade ascertain the exact point of origin of the seed they offer for sale and label it conspicuously as to locality of origin as well as percentage of germination and date on which the germination test was made. The present need is to secure an adequate supply of seed for this important food crop. To this end the fullest cooperation is essential. It should not be necessary to urge that excessively high prices for seed corn are neither justifiable nor patriotic.

Section 3.—Applications for Seed.

Farmers in the States above named who find that their own seed corn does not germinate or who can not locate seed in their own neighborhoods or through the customary commercial channels should at once make application for seed on the blank form on the following page. This application should be made (*a*) only by farmers, (*b*) only for the quantity actually needed for planting, and (*c*) only in case it is known that viable seed can not be secured in the neighborhood or through the ordinary commercial agencies.

These applications when properly filled out should be detached and handed or mailed to the County Agent, or, if there is no County Agent, should be mailed to the State Director of Extension or other State Agent listed in the following paragraph.

The following is a list of State Agents to whom orders should be sent in case there is no County Agent in the county:

Ohio—Clark S. Wheeler, Columbus, Ohio.
Indiana—G. I. Christie, Lafayette, Ind.
Michigan—R. J. Baldwin, East Lansing, Mich.
Illinois—William G. Eckhardt, 120 West Adams Street, Chicago, Ill.
Iowa—R. K. Bliss, Ames, Iowa.
Minnesota—A. D. Wilson, Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.
Nebraska—W. W. Burr, Agricultural College, Lincoln, Nebr.
Missouri—A. J. Meyer, Columbia, Mo.
Wisconsin—C. P. Norgord, Commissioner of Agriculture, Madison, Wis.

Approved:
D. F. Houston,
Secretary.

February 21, 1918.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

War Emergency Seed Corn.

APPLICATION BLANK.

(Date)..... 1918.

To the Secretary of Agriculture:

I hereby state that I am a farmer and am unable to locate in my neighborhood a sufficient quantity of viable seed corn to meet my planting requirements for the coming season and desire to place an order with you for..... pounds of seed corn for planting on.....acres this spring. Upon notice of the approval and acceptance of this order by an authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, I agree to pay on this order the price determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be sufficient to cover the cost of the corn, including the expense of handling and transportation.

Signature of farmer .....

County .....Shipping point .....

Post office..... State.....

(Do not write below these lines.)

Signature of County Agent transmitting this application:

.....

County ..... State.....

This order accepted.....1918.

Signature.....

(Authorized Representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.)

Price of corn,.....per 100 pounds.

Amount to be remitted by purchaser, $.....

Note.—This blank should be filled out by the farmer down to the double lines and then sent in. When the order is accepted it will be returned to him with the cost of the corn indicated. To insure delivery of the seed corn applied for, this order must then be returned, with remittance, to the above-named representative of the Secretary of Agriculture within 10 days of the date of acceptance stamped above. Make check or money order payable to "Disbursing Officer, U. S. Department of Agriculture."